

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I am here on behalf of myself, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI). The three of us represent the House on the Board of Regents the governing body of the Smithsonian; it is a great institution, something that has won worldwide acclaim for the collections, for the way in which it interprets the history of the United States as well as other parts of the world.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2195, the Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act. As a member of the Board of Regents, I am pleased to see this bill brought to the floor today; and I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and also the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for recognizing the importance of a timely passage of this bill and for their efforts to expedite the bill through the Committee on House Administration.

H.R. 2195 authorizes a trust fund improvement to the Patent Office Building, most notably the courtyard enclosure. These improvements are critical steps in the renovation of the Old Patent Office Building and to reopening the historic building for the public to enjoy. And certainly "for the public to enjoy" is a true statement, because people coming to visit the Nation's capital put a visit to the Smithsonian on a high priority on their list of places to see.

Additionally, the bill authorizes funding for planning, design, and construction of the Pod 5 facility at Suitland. This authorization will facilitate the evolving needs of the biological research community at large.

One of the lesser-known functions of the Smithsonian is the preservation of all kind of things that are valuable to research people. We have no idea how much how much their collections are used by the research community; and, therefore, it is important that we have adequate facilities to take care of these.

H.R. 2195 provides the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution with continuous contracting authority for the Pod 5 project which will make future phasing more efficient and economically sound.

Finally, the bill recognizes the efforts of the National Museum of American History to establish Jazz Appreciation Month. Acknowledging the Smithsonian's jazz collections is important to bringing attention to our Nation's oldest and most comprehensive program in this inherently American art form.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for promptly seeing this bill through the Committee on House Administration, and I look forward to having it passed by this body.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2195, a bill to provide additional space and resources for the national collections held by the Smithsonian Institute. I com-

mend the Gentleman from Ohio, Congressman REGULA, for introducing the bill, which is co-sponsored by two of our colleagues, Congressmen JOHNSON and MATSUI, who also serve on the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents.

The bill authorizes the Smithsonian's Board of Regents to plan, design, construct, and equip additional special use storage and laboratory space for the museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, has jurisdiction over these activities of the Smithsonian, and the Committee will review and approve any design plans for this facility once they are completed.

The bill also clarifies and refines the role of the Smithsonian in the renovation of the Patent Office Building, while retaining the appropriate roles of the National Capitol Planning Commission and the Commission on Fine Arts. This building houses the Smithsonian's American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery and is currently closed for extensive renovation. It is scheduled to reopen in 2006. In addition, the bill brings the Smithsonian into line with other executive branch agencies regarding competitive procedures for awarding contracts.

As is current practice, the Smithsonian will continue to submit its construction projects to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for approval by Committee resolution.

I support H.R. 2195 and again thank the bill's sponsors for their attention to these matters.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2195.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 2195.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1950, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 316 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 316

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1950) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, to authorize appropriations under the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for security assistance for fiscal years 2004 and 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the bill modified by the amendments recommended by the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce also printed in the bill. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 2. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report (except as specified in section 3), may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as specified in the report, shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 2 are waived.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier considered. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 3. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may recognize for consideration of any amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules out of the order printed, but not sooner than one hour after the chairman of the Committee on International Relations or a designee prospectively announces from the floor a request to that effect.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee